very high. Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been under operation since 1988 as reduction in establishment cost would improve the financial position of HSCL which is a loss making company.

Importing of heavy duty tyres by UMDC Limited

2957. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NMDC Limited has been importing heavy duty tyres without proper evaluation of tenders;

(b) whether such tyres are also available in domestic markets;

(c) whether objections have been raised by the Finance Wing of the Company;

(d) whether Government propose to order investigation against such deals of the Company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has reported that it has been procuring tyres required at its iron ore mining projects both fro m indigenous and foreign manufacturers. However, the company has found the performance of imported tyres to be markedly superior to the indigenous ones resulting in longer life, saving in fuel consumption, etc.

(c) NMDC has reported that the views of its Finance, Operations and Materials Departments were taken into consideration before arriving at the purchase decision.

(d) and (e) No investigation by the Government appears to be necessary as the company has reported that it has followed the laid down procedure for processing the order for tyres as in the past by considering various techno-commercial aspects.

Sales of steel from SAIL

2958. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sales of steel from SAIL plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela has recorded some increase during first 11 months of current financial year over the corresponding period in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps ensuring further higher selling trend of steel by SAIL plants in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The total sales of saleable steel from SAIL Plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela during the first 11 months of the current financial year (April, 1994 to February, 1995) have shown a growth of 5% over the sales in the corresponding period last year.

(b) The Plant-wise details of total sales of saleable steel during the first

11 months (April, 1994 to February, 1995) compared to the sales during the corresponding period of previous years are indicated below:

(In '000 Tonnes)

Plant	Sales of Saleable Steel 1994-95 (April'94—Feb. '95)	1993-94 (April'93—Feb. '94)	Percentage Growth
BSP	2782.6	2662.1	5%
DSP	651.8	563.3	16%
RSP	964.6	1012.2	(—)5%
BSL	2683.4	2525.2	6%
TOTAL:	7082.4	6762.8	5%

(c) and (d) The Government takes all possible policy measures to create an environment conducive to promoting higher growth of sales (including exports) of steel, besides assisting the steel plants in their marketing efforts.

Some of the steps taken by SAIL for ensuring higher sales of steel from Steel Plants in future include the following:

(i) Reorientation and periodic adjustment of production plan to suit the changing market requirements;

(ii) Developing new products to meet the specific requirements of the customers;

(iii) Providing facility of advance booking of the requirements of the customers for the full year so as to help the customers as well as Steel Plan their production planning; and

(iv) Close monitoring of supplies so as to ensure supply of right quality of materials to the customers and quick disposal of quality complaints, if any, for greater customer satisfaction.

राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम का कार्य निष्पादन

2959. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विगत तीन वर्षों से राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम के कार्य-निष्पादन में सुधार हो रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम द्वारा किए गए कारोबार, अर्जित किए गए लाभ और वितरित किए गए लाभांश का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

(ग) क्या हाल ही में निगम ने मंत्रालय के साथ 1994–95 के वर्ष के लिए किसी समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) : (क) और (ख) नेशनल मिनरल डेवलपमेन्ट कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड